

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SIG-03
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 ACDA-12
SS-15 NSC-05 /110 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR

APPROVED BY AF/P:FDHOOK

-----057657 261225Z /50

R 252215Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USICA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 25, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: HODDING, IS THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED THAT THERE MAY BE
A DELAY ON THE NAMIBIA THING IN VIEW OF SOUTH AFRICA'S
STATEMENT --

A: YES.

AS SOMEBODY HAS BEEN KNOWN TO SAY, I AM GLAD YOU ASKED ME
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THAT QUESTION.

ON THE NAMIBIAN THING LET ME JUST GIVE YOU A GENERAL RUN
THROUGH.

THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP OVER REPORTS THAT THE CONTACT
GROUP PROPOSAL HAS BEEN IN SOME WAY AMENDED IN ITS RECENT
TALKS, AND PARTICULARLY IN LUANDA BUT THEREAFTER, TO ACCOM-
MODATE AN AFRICAN VIEW ON THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE.

NOW, THE CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS HAVE EXPLAINED TO THE
SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE AND THAT THE
PROPOSAL WHICH WE WANT TO PUT BEFORE THE SECURITY
COUNCIL, WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY BOTH SWAPO AND SOUTH
AFRICA, IS IN THE SAME FORM AS THE ONE THAT SOUTH AFRICA
ACCEPTED ON APRIL 25TH.

AT THE SAME TIME WE HAVE TOLD THE SOUTH AFRICANS THAT THE
WALVIS BAY ISSUE IS INEVITABLY GOING TO ARISE DURING THE
SECURITY COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS ON NAMIBIA AND IN PARTICULAR
ON OUR PROPOSAL AND THAT MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP

WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND AN INDEPENDENT NAMIBIAN STATE ON THIS ISSUE, BUT IS SEPARATE FROM THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL WHICH HAS NOT INCLUDED THAT ISSUE.

NOW, WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA CONSULTS FURTHER WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP AND CAREFULLY EXAMINES THE SITUATION IT WILL CONCLUDE, AS IT HAS ALREADY IN THE PAST, THAT THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL REPRESENTS THE ONLY AVAILABLE ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM AND THAT THEY WILL MAINTAIN -- THEY WILL CONTINUE THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL.

QUITE FRANKLY, AFTER THE EXTENSIVE EFFORTS THAT HAVE BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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MADE TO ACHIEVE A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN THIS AREA, WE BELIEVE THAT ANY ACTION TO REPUDIATE THAT ACCEPTANCE WOULD BE A TRAGIC DEVELOPMENT. WHAT WE ARE HOPING RIGHT NOW IS THAT CONSULTATIONS SUCH AS THE ONE I AM TALKING ABOUT BETWEEN THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND THE CONTACT GROUP REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS CAN BE HELD IN NEW YORK TODAY AND TOMORROW AND THAT A FORMAL SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT CAN BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 27TH.

AND THAT IS ABOUT THE -- OUR STATE OF PLAY RIGHT NOW.

Q: DOES THAT MEAN, THAT THE CONTACT GROUP STICKS WITH THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WHICH, AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, WAS TO SEPARATE THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE FROM THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND SWAPO AND DEFER THEM TO NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF NAMIBIA?

A: YES.

Q: IS THE SECRETARY GOING TO NEW YORK FOR THAT DEBATE?

A: ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS, THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY CLOSELY LINKED TO HOW THE INFORMAL

DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING AND THE LIKE. I DON'T HAVE A DEFINITE TRAVEL PLAN FOR YOU. I WOULD JUST SAY ON BACKGROUND THE POSSIBILITY OF SOMETHING ON THURSDAY IS ALWAYS AN OPEN ONE.

Q: ANY STATISTICAL DETAILS ABOUT WHERE, WHICH DESERT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MEET IN?

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A: I THINK, AS MY LITTLE GUIDANCE SAYS, THE SPOKESMAN
YESTERDAY SPOKE OF ONE POSSIBILITY AND OBVIOUSLY THAT ONE
IS BEING EXPLORED. OTHERS ARE AT LEAST BEING LOOKED AT,
BUT I DON'T KNOW OF A FINAL ON THAT.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE187831
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:ADR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780306-0453
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780722/aaaaasdu.tel
Line Count: 181
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e90ee76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1891400
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JULY 25, 1978 FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY
TAGS: SOPN
To: KINSHASA LUBUMBASHI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e90ee76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014